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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/693,730	10/24/2003	Luc Leenders	224791	2390

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EXAMINER	
WILLIAMS, KEVIN D	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2854	

DATE MAILED: 07/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/693,730	LEENDERS ET AL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kevin D. Williams	2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *24 April 2006*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-16* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-16* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *24 October 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Uchida (US 5,163,999).

Uchida teaches a process for offset printing comprising, applying a printing ink to a printing plate and wetting said printing plate with a fountain comprising a fountain medium comprising between 50% by weight and 100% by weight of water (col. 4, lines 11-16; col. 6, lines 44-46; col. 8, lines 10-14; col. 10, lines 14-16; solution comprises at most 15% organic solvent, 10% thickening agent, and 10% surfactant; remaining part is water), said fountain further comprising as a solution or a dispersion in said fountain medium at least one moiety having at least pH-indicating (col. 10, lines 17-20), whitening, fluorescent, phosphorescent, X-ray phosphor or conductive properties, said moiety being an intrinsically conductive polymer, said aqueous fountain medium having a viscosity at 25°C after stirring to constant viscosity of 30 mPa.s as measured according to DIN 53211 (Abstract).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3 and 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchida in view of Kirchmeyer (US 2002/0077450).

Uchida teaches the claimed invention except for the intrinsically conductive polymer being selected from the group consisting of polyanilines, polyaniline derivatives, polypyrroles, polypyrrole derivatives, polythiophenes and polythiophene derivatives, the intrinsically conductive polymer being selected from the group consisting of homopolymers of (3,4-methylenedioxy-thiophene), (3,4-methylenedioxythiophene) derivatives, (3,4-ethylenedioxythiopene), (3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene) derivatives, (3,4-propylenedioxythiophene), (3,4-propylenedioxythiophene) derivatives, (3,4-butylenedioxythiophene) and (3,4-butylenedioxythiophene) derivatives and copolymers thereof, the fountain medium further containing a polyanion being a poly(styrenesulfonate), and the fountain medium further comprising a di- or polyhydroxy- and/or carboxy groups or amide or lactam group containing organic compound being selected from the group consisting of 1,2-propandiol, propylene glycol, diethylene glycol, N-methyl pyrrolidinone and di (ethylene glycol) ethyl ether acetate.

Kirchmeyer teaches an intrinsically conductive polymer being selected from the group consisting of polyanilines, polyaniline derivatives, polypyrroles, polypyrrole derivatives, polythiophenes ([0044]) and polythiophene derivatives, the intrinsically conductive polymer being selected from the group consisting of homopolymers of (3,4-

methylenedioxy-thiophene) ([0031]), (3,4-methylenedioxythiophene) derivatives, (3,4-ethylenedioxythiopene), (3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene) derivatives, (3,4-propylenedioxythiophene), (3,4-propylenedioxythiophene) derivatives, (3,4-butylenedioxythiophene) and (3,4-butylenedioxythiophene) derivatives and copolymers thereof, a solution containing a polyanion being a poly(styrenesulfonate) ([0032]), and a solution comprising di- or polyhydroxy- and/or carboxy groups or amide or lactam group containing organic compound being selected from the group consisting of 1,2-propandiol, propylene glycol, diethylene glycol (0037]), N-methyl pyrrolidinone and di (ethylene glycol) ethyl ether acetate.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Uchida to have the solution as taught by Kirchmeyer, in order to utilize components that dissolve quickly in solvents.

5. Claims 4, 11, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchida in view of Louwet (6,632,472).

Uchida teaches the claimed invention except for the intrinsically conductive polymer being a polymer or copolymer of a 3,4-dialkoxythiophene in which the two alkoxy groups may be the same or different or together represent an optionally substituted oxy-alkylene-oxy bridge, and an aprotic organic compound with a dielectric constant ≥15 and a non-ionic or anionic surfactant.

Louwet teaches an intrinsically conductive polymer being a polymer or copolymer of a 3,4-dialkoxythiophene in which the two alkoxy groups may be the same or different or together represent an optionally substituted oxy-alkylene-oxy bridge (col. 6, lines 36-

44), and an aprotic organic compound with a dielectric constant ≥15 (col. 4, lines 30-34) and a non-ionic or anionic surfactant (col. 11, lines 1-3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Uchida to have the solution as taught by Louwet, in order to reduce the amount of energy required to dissolve the ingredients as taught by Louwet.

6. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchida in view of Kirchmeyer as applied to claims 3 and 5-9 above, and further in view of Domoto (US 6,827,435).

Uchida in view of Kirchmeyer teaches the claimed invention except for heating the receiving medium within 10 minutes after printing to a temperature of 100 to 250°C.

Domoto teaches a printing device having a step subsequent to printing in which a receiving medium within 10 minutes of printing is heated to a temperature of 100 to 250°C (col. 6, lines 30-34).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to additionally modify Uchida to have the heating of the receiving medium as taught by Domoto, in order to prevent the printed images from smearing.

7. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchida in view of Louwet as applied to claims 4, 11, and 13 above, and further in view of Domoto.

Uchida in view of Louwet teaches the claimed invention except for heating the receiving medium within 10 minutes after printing to a temperature of ≤150°C.

Domoto teaches a printing device having a step subsequent to printing in which a

receiving medium within 10 minutes of printing is heated to a temperature of ≤150°C (col. 6, lines 30-34).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to additionally modify Uchida to have the heating of the receiving medium as taught by Domoto, in order to prevent the printed images from smearing.

8. Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchida in view of Van Hunsel (US 5,658,713).

Uchida teaches the claimed invention except for the fountain medium containing a dye and/or pigment such that the color tone of the ink and color tone of the aqueous fountain medium cannot be distinguished by the human eye when applied onto a receiving medium, and the printing ink containing a dye and/or pigment such that the color tone of the ink and the fountain medium cannot be distinguished by the human eye when applied onto a receiving medium.

Van Hunsel teaches a fountain medium containing a dye and/or pigment (col. 13, lines 7-9; transparent dampening solution) such that the color tone of the ink and color tone of the aqueous fountain medium cannot be distinguished by the human eye when applied onto a receiving medium, and the printing ink containing a dye and/or pigment such that the color tone of the ink and the fountain medium cannot be distinguished by the human eye when applied onto a receiving medium (col. 13, lines 7-9; transparent dampening solution).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Uchida to have the transparent dampening solution as taught by

Van Hunsel, in order to easily determine which areas of the plate are covered with ink.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed 4/24/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Uchida does not disclose a medium containing at least one moiety having at least pH-indicating, whitening, fluorescent, phosphorescent, X-ray phosphor or conductive properties. The examiner disagrees. Claim 1 recites a moiety having "pH-indicating properties." The properties of the moiety of Uchida are such that they indicate a particular pH which can be determined by a pH indicating test. See column 10, lines 17-20.

Claim 1 also recites a moiety having "conductive properties." The claim does not require that any specific element actually be conductive. However, Uchida teaches several components of the moiety being conductive. For example, Uchida teaches that an alkali metal hydroxide can be incorporated into the moiety. See column 10, lines 33-35. Alkali metal hydroxides are conductive. As evidence please see Chemistry of the Group 1 Elements under the section "Alkali Metal Compounds." Also see U.S. Patent 5,098,534 to Nakamura at column 2, lines 5-7 and U.S. Patent 4,145,264 to Thoma at column 6, lines 22-26.

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin D. Williams whose telephone number is (571) 272-2172. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew H. Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KDW
July 17, 2006

Daniel J. Colilla
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2854